

OCT 12 1967

DEFEAT, DISILLUSION AND DEATH**Guevara's Actions in Bolivia Traced**

By JEREMIAH O'LEARY

Latin America Writer of The Star

Ernesto "Che" Guevara, who died defeated and disillusioned under a hail of Bolivian army bullets, entered Bolivia last November in the guise of an economist for the Organization of American States.

Fidel Castro's former right-hand man had two false Uruguayan passports but the one he used to fly boldly into La Paz, the Bolivian capital, was made out to Adolfo Mena. With his well known beard and mane of hair shaved and with documents identifying him as an OAS official, Guevara was not challenged by Bolivian authorities in the several days he is known to have spent in the capital.

A few other Cubans entered Bolivia the same way, by using the national airline Lloyd Boliviano from Sao Paulo, Brazil, to La Paz. The rest of the Cuban contingent which made up the hard core of his guerrilla band filtered in by other routes not yet known to U.S. officials.

The United States began to suspect the presence of the guerrilla group soon after the arrival of "Che"—which means something like "Bud" or "Mac"—in Guevara's native Argentina. But the revolutionary leader and dedicated Marxist did not remain long in La Paz, according to reconstructions of his movements. If he had, Guevara probably would have been picked up by Bolivian intelligence officers who later rounded up many of his cohorts in La Paz, primarily women.

Killed in Clash

Guevara was killed in a clash with members of the 2nd Ranger Battalion, a crack unit which has American weapons and was trained by U.S. specialists.

Guevara was buried in secret late Tuesday near Vallegrande on orders of Bolivian President Rene Barrientos. Some Bolivian officials were inclined to offer to send the body to Guevara's

family in Argentina, or even to Castro, but high-ranking officials decided it was important not to make possible establishment of something like a shrine for a Communist martyr.

It now appears that Guevara died soon after he was struck in the neck, chest, legs and groin by Bolivian bullets. Four Bolivian soldiers died in the clash, which took place in a deep canyon of the jungle region 7,000 feet high in south-central Bolivia.

Before Guevara was buried, the Bolivians took his fingerprints and permitted newsmen to see and photograph the body. Persons who knew the 39-year-old Argentine adventurer said there was no question of his identity and the United States is convinced.

The rangers used carefully planned tactics and information received from Bolivian defectors to trap the guerrilla band. The strategy was to drive the guerrillas from jungles up unto high mountains where the trees are sparse and food hard to obtain, with his body.

He was not only ill with asthma and arthritis but bitter at his failure to inspire revolution-

ary spirit among the Indian peasants of the region.

Last Saturday, the day before his death, Guevara noted in the diary that he had attempted to bribe two Indian women to show him an escape route from the country.

There also were comments about Regis Debray, the French Marxist now on trial in Bolivia, remarking that Debray had great intellectual capacity but was deficient in the armed struggle.

Bolivian Army sources said the diary references to Debray would be sent to the military tribunal trying him in Camiri to prove the Frenchman's complicity in the guerrilla movement.

Informed sources believe the guerrilla group created by Guevara now has disintegrated and that its surviving members are either trying to melt into the population or escape from Bolivia by any possible means.

4
Sect
pr